(c) the action taken to disburse workers' salaries due since may, 1990; and

(d) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the future of the National Council for Safety in Mines, Dhanbad and its employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints, the National Council for Safety in Mines (NCSM), was not able to make payment of salary to its staff for the months of May, June and July, 1990.

(c) The salary for the above period was disbursed to the staff on 10-8-90.

(d) The matter is under review.

Purchase of vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables from traders

1081. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NDDB has been buying vegetable oil directly from traders and not from farmers or their cooperatives thereby enriching the middlemen contrary to Government policies, as brought out by Sunday Mail on the 15th July, 1990; and

(b) whether NDDB has been following same procedures in case of fruits and vegetable project at Delhi and if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) NDDB buys oil from the associated oilseed grower cooperatives at ruling market prices. Oil is also purchased from the open market at both terminal centres like Bombay and producing centres like Rajkot. Prices paid for oil purchases at terminal markets get reflected as higher oil prices in purchasing centres, in turn giving better prices to oilseed growers. Simultaneously oilseeds are also purchased through the oilseeds growers cooperatives associated with the NDDB in order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. It is necessary for the NDDB to purchase oil from the open market apart from the oilseed growers cooperatives so as to achieve the objectives of Market Intervention operations.

(b) The procedure followed by the NDDB's Fruit & Vegetable Project is to collect fruits and vegetables from the farmers directly and only in case of non-availability and logistical problems it is purchased from the markets which are run by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees.

Utilization of Tetrapak project

1082. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tetrapak project was approved by Government for marketing of milk and if so, what is the present installed capacity and actual utilization indicating the total investment made so far;

(b) whether Tetrapak project is busy in helping private firms some of those former MNCs to pack tomatos, fruit drinks, etc. and if so, the details of capacity utilization for non-milk products during 1989-90;

(c) what was the value of paper and LDPE and other spares and royalty paid/payable in foreign exchange so far; and

(d) whether Government are aware that Tetrapak feasibility project Report clearly states that only indigenous paper, LDPE was to be used and if so, the reasons for such imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of a coach factory

1083. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up another coach factory;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large pending request from Kerala to set up a coach factory there; and

(c) if so, the location of setting up of the coach factory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Restriction on concessional passes to class IV staff

1084. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post retirement passes are restricted in case of class IV staff of Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that passes for dependents are disallowed after retirement of its staff;

(c) whether Government propose to follow an uniform policy irrespective of status of employees; and

(d) if so, whether Government also propose to issue passes to retired railway employees on the lines of Air-lines staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Post retirement complimentary passes are issued to all eligible Railway staff in accordance with their entitlement.

(b) Post retirement complimentary passes are admissible only to the family members of retired employee.

(c) and (d) Passes are issued in accordance with the policy laid down in the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986. There is no proposal to further liberalise it.

Support price for coconut in Kerala

1085. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not applying the uniform Yardstick for giving support price to Kerala Farmers especially Coconut growers;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present support price for coconut is too inadequate; and

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to enhance the support price for this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Coconut is not covered under the minimum support price policy. However, the copra has been brought under the minimum support price policy since 1989. Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the minimum support price for fair average quality of copra was fixed at Rs. 1500/- per quintal for 1989 season and has been raised to Rs. 1600/- per quintal for 1990 season.

The minimum support price is a guarantee that if prices fall below this level, the Government would